Appl. No. 10/596,568
Amdt. dated June 19, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 27, 2009

Attorney Docket No. DE920030038US1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 – Cancelled

21. (Currently Amended) A utilization method within a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a metering handler, a service request message from a service consumer;

generating, by the metering handler, a meter event request associated with the service request;

evaluating, by the metering handler, a status of at least one parameter;

comparing, by the metering handler, the an amount of stored meter event requestsactual content ofstored in a cache memory with the at least one parameter;

storing, by the metering handler, the meter event request in the cache memory or sending the meter event request and the an entire contentscontent of the cache memory to a metering service in order to process the meter event requests based on the evaluation and the comparison;

wherein said at least one parameter is associated with the service request and a predefined convention, and said at least one parameter defines how many meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory.

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22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein <u>the evaluating the status of</u> the~~comparing the actual content of a cache memory with~~ at least one parameter comprises evaluating a status of a boolean parameter which indicates if the meter event request is allowed to be stored in the cache memory.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein <u>the</u> comparing the <u>amount of stored meter event requests stored in</u>~~actual content of~~ a cache memory with <u>the</u> at least one parameter comprises:

        evaluating<u>, by the metering handler,</u> a value of an integer parameter associated with the boolean parameter; and

        comparing<u>, by the metering handler,</u> said value of the integer parameter with the <u>amount of stored meter event requests stored in</u>~~content of~~ the cache memory.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising sending<u>, by the metering handler,</u> the meter event request to the metering service in order to process the meter event request and deleting<u>, by the metering handler,</u> the <u>entire</u> contents~~content~~ of the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory equals or increases the value of the integer parameter.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the meter event request is stored in the cache memory ~~if~~<u>when</u> the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory is less than said value of the integer parameter.

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26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the predefined convention is defined in a license contract which relates to the kinds and amount of services between a service provider and the service consumer.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a relevant information is separated, by the metering handler, from the service request message after receiving the service request message.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the relevant information of the service request message comprises at least one of request data, contract data, license data, the boolean parameter, the integer parameter and the identity of the service consumer.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

counting, by the metering handler, the services when the associated meter event request is sent to the metering service; and

sending, by the metering handler, the actual counting results to at least one of a service provider and the service consumer.

30. (Withdrawn) A utilization system within a communication network, said system comprising:

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an input device for receiving a service request message from a service consumer;

a generator for generating a meter event request associated with the service request;

a cache memory for storing the meter event requests;

a cache controller for controlling the cache memory; and

an invocator for sending the meter event requests to a metering service in order to process the meter event requests;

wherein said system comprises a cache enabler for evaluating if any meter event request may be stored in the cache memory, and a monitor for evaluating how many meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory depending on at least one parameter associated with the request and a predefined convention.

31. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 30, wherein the cache enabler evaluates a status of a boolean parameter which indicates if the meter event request may be stored in the cache memory.

32. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 30, wherein the monitor evaluates a status of an integer parameter which indicates how many meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory.

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33. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 30, wherein said input device is coupled with a message context separator for separating the relevant information from the service request message.

34. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 30, further comprising a counter for counting the requested services when associated meter event requests has been sent to the metering service.

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product comprising:~~

a computer ~~usable~~ readable medium having computer usable program code embodied therewith, the computer usable program code when executed causing a processing device to perform~~comprising~~:

~~computer usable program code configured to receive~~receiving a service request message from a service consumer;

~~computer usable program code configured to generate~~generating a meter event request associated with the service request;

evaluating, by a cache enabler, a status of at least one parameter;

~~computer usable program code configured to compare~~comparing ~~the actual content of~~an amount of stored meter event requests stored in a cache memory with the at least one parameter;

~~computer usable program code configured to store~~storing the meter event request in the cache memory or send the meter event request and ~~the content~~an entire

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contents of the cache memory to a metering service in order to process the meter event

requests based on the evaluation and the comparison;

wherein said at least one parameter is associated with the service request and a

predefined convention, and said at least one parameter defines how many meter event

requests may be stored in the cache memory.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~readable medium of claim 35,

wherein the ~~computer usable program code configured to compare~~comparing the actual

content of a cache memory with at least one parameter comprises ~~computer usable~~

~~program code configured to evaluate~~evaluating a status of a boolean parameter which

indicates if the meter event request is allowed to be stored in the cache memory.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~readable medium of claim 36,

wherein the ~~computer usable program code configured to compare~~comparing the actual

content of a cache memory with at least one parameter comprises:

~~computer usable program code configured to evaluate~~evaluating a value of an

integer parameter associated with the boolean parameter; and

~~computer usable program code configured to compare~~comparing said value of

the integer parameter with the content of the cache memory.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~readable medium of claim 37,

further comprising ~~computer usable program code configured~~configuring to send the

meter event request to the metering service in order to process the meter event request

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and ~~computer usable program code configured to delete~~<u>deleting</u> the content of the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory equals or increases the value of the integer parameter.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~<u>readable medium</u> of claim 37, wherein the meter event request is stored in the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory is less than said value of the integer parameter.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~<u>readable medium</u> of claim 35, wherein the predefined convention is defined in a license contract which relates to the kinds and amount of services between a service provider and the service consumer.